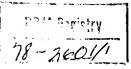
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY 722 JACKSON PLACE, N. W. WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006

December 18, 1978



MEMORANDUM TO HEADS OF AGENCIES

SUBJECT:

Agency Implementing Procedure's Under the National Environmental Policy Act and CEQ Regulations

I am writing to thank you for your assistance in carrying out President Carter's NEPA reform and to offer CEQ assistance in the development of your agency's new NEPA procedures to be issued in compliance with Executive Order 11991 (May 24, 1977) and the Council's regulations (43 Fed. Reg. 55978, Nov. 29, 1978). These regulations, implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, will become effective for most agencies on July 30, 1979 (Sec. 1506.12). Agencies may choose to act earlier, and under certain statutory programs (applicable primarily to HUD and DOT) the effective date is later. The regulations will replace the Council's 1973 Guidelines under which all agencies now operate (40 C.F.R. Sec. 1500.1 et seq.). A reprint of the new regulations is enclosed.

The regulations provide a uniform and efficient procedure binding on all federal agencies. We expect them to reduce paperwork, to reduce delays, and to produce better decisions in order to further the national policy of protecting and enhancing the quality of the human environment.

DAVE: CUR PRESENT PROCECURES MUST BE PEULISED TO MEET THE STRUITMONS OF THE NEW NEW NEW AWAYED ES DELIEUE OL/PAPS WOULD BE MUST HELP OUT, IN CARRILLANDE WITH ERED TO DEGLEPPETHES The regulations provide that each agency shall adopt "implementing procedures" to make the regulations applicable to their operations (Sec. 1507.3) prior to the July 30, 1979 effective date. Each agency should develop procedures in consultation with the Council and the public which provide clear guidance on the integration of NEPA with agency planning and decisionmaking. I have written in more detail to your agency's NEPA contact. Questions should be addressed to our General Counsel, Nicholas c. Yost, at (202) 633-7032 or (2**02)** 395-5750.

With your help and that of other agencies and the public, the Council how has completed its primary task of developing NEPA regulations. Your task is about to begin. Each agency must, first, adopt its implementing procedures and, second, administer the Act, the regulations, and the procedures in order to achieve the goals set forth by the Congress and by President Carter. The new regulations will only be as effective as agency implementation of them. We stand ready to assist you in making this part of the President's NEPA reform effort a success.

> CHARLES WARREN Chairman

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